

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

C1 Claim 1 (Previously presented): A vertical blind cut-down apparatus for trim cutting a vertical blind having a horizontal head rail defining two ends, and vertical blind materials defining upper and lower ends suspended by the upper ends from the head rail, the vertical blind cut down apparatus comprising:

a head rail holding plate having a head rail opening formed therein for receiving the head rail therethrough;

a cutting die for the head rail adapted to receive the head rail extending therethrough, and being movable relative to said holding plate for cutting one end of the head rail;

a blind holder having a blind material opening therethrough for receiving the vertical blind materials therein;

a blind cutting device moveable relative to said blind holder for cutting the vertical blind material extending through said blind holder; and

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a movement transmission device for moving said cutting die and for moving said blind cutting device whereby both the vertical blind materials and the head rail are cut.

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Claim 2 (Previously presented): The vertical blind cut down apparatus of claim 1, wherein the headrail defines a transverse axis and in which said headrail opening in said holding plate is located and oriented so as to position said transverse axis of the head rail diagonal to a longitudinal axis of said holding plate, and in which said cutting die defines a cutting opening which is similarly diagonal, said cutting die being slidably moveable relative to said holding plate, so that the headrail is cut along a linear axis which is diagonal to said transverse axis of the head rail.

Claim 3 (Previously presented): The vertical blind cut down apparatus of claim 2, wherein said blind cutting device is slidable along a linear cutting path relative to said holder plate, and in a substantially same plane as said cutting die, said cutting device being spaced from said cutting die by a distance at least equal to said cutting path of said blind cutting device.

Claim 4 (Currently amending): The vertical blind cut down apparatus of claim 2, wherein said movement transmission device comprises a rotary shaft mounted in said holder plate, and a cam mounted on said rotary shaft for moving said cutting die a sufficient distance to sever the head rail, and including a movement transmission link connecting between said rotary shaft and said blind cutting

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device, for moving said cutting device substantially simultaneously with said cutting die.

Claim 5 (Previously presented): The vertical blind cut down apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a base plate, and a lower guide channel fixed to said base plate, wherein said head rail holding plate and said blind holder are secured to said lower guide channel, and further including an upper guide channel secured to an upper side of said holding plate.

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Claim 6 (Previously presented): The vertical blind cut down apparatus of claim 5, wherein said blind cutting device is slidably received in said lower and upper guide channels, and wherein said headrail cutting die is slidably received in said lower and upper guide channels, and wherein said cutting device and said cutting die thereby slide in a common plane and are separate from one another.

Claim 7 (Previously presented): The vertical blind cut down apparatus of claim 4, wherein said rotary shaft carries said cam, said cam being mounted on said rotary shaft, said cam being received in an opening, said opening being formed in said cutting die, said rotary shaft moving said cutting die along a cutting die movement path, and wherein the vertical blind cut down apparatus further comprises a link arm means, said link arm means connected to said rotary shaft, and to said blind cutter device, for moving said cutting device through a blind cutting movement path, said blind cutting movement path being longer than said cutter die path.

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Claim 8 (Previously presented): The vertical blind cut down apparatus of claim 7, further comprising an end stop member mounted adjacent to and spaced from said cutting die and said blind cutting device.

Claim 9 (Previously presented): The vertical blind cut down apparatus of claim 7, wherein said cam is located on an axis of said rotary shaft that is offset from a rotary axis of said rotary shaft, and wherein said cam has a boss mounted thereon for orbital movement, and wherein said link arm means is connected to said boss.

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Claim 10 (Previously presented): The vertical blind cut down apparatus of claim 8, further comprising a first end stop means for registering with said cutting die, and second end stop means registering with said blind cutting device, and first adjustment means for adjusting a spacing between said second end stop and said blind cutting device.

Claim 11 (Previously presented): The vertical blind cut down apparatus of claim 10, further comprising a linkage connected between said blind cutting device and said first and second end stop means, said linkage for moving said end stop means away from said cutting die and said blind cutter device upon movement of said movement transmission to procure a cutting stroke.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): A method of trimming components using a vertical blind having a horizontal head rail defining a fixed end and a trim end, and vertical blind materials defining upper attachment ends and lower trim ends, and the upper attachment ends attached and suspended

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from the horizontal head rail, the method comprising the steps of:

passing the trim end through a holding plate, said holding plate having a head rail opening;

passing the trim end through a head rail cutting die being movable relative to said holding plate;

moving said head rail cutting die relative to said holding plate for cutting the trim end extending through said holding plate, wherein the trim end is cut and the fix end is untrimmed;

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passing the lower trim ends through a blind holder, said blind holder having a blind material opening;

passing the lower trim ends into registration with a blind material cutting device, said blind material cutting device being movable relative to said blind holder; and

moving said blind material cutting device relative to said blind holder for cutting the trim end, the trim end extending through said blind holder, wherein the lower trim end is cut and the upper attachment ends are untrimmed.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of moving said head rail cutting die a first distance for cutting the horizontal head rail, and simultaneously moving said blind cutting device through a second distance, wherein said second distance is greater than said first distance.

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Claim 14 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of passing the trim end through said head rail cutting die at a first trim distance, and passing the vertical blind materials through said blind holder at a second trim distance, wherein said first trim distance is different from said second trim distance.

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Claim 15 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of moving said head rail cutting die by a rotary movement of a cam drive, and moving said blind cutting device through a linkage, said linkage being connected to said cam drive.
